

# YOUTH REHABILITATION & TREATMENT CENTER-KEARNEY



*Division of Children & Family Services  
Offices of Juvenile Services*

*SFY 2011/2012 Annual Report*

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## Administrative Team

Jana Peterson	Facility Administrator	Mike Pearson	Religious Coordinator
Reymundo Rodriguez	Facility Operating Officer	Shelly Garrett, R.N.	Nurse Supervisor
Rita Uldrich	Business Manager	Rosalie McCurry	Administrative Assistant
Mindy Abel, PSY.D.	Psychologist	Jolene Jarecki	IS&T
Ron Cox	Youth Security Supervisor	Steve Huffman	Youth Counselor Supervisor
Tony Kleidosty	Principal	Tim Jorgensen	Youth Counselor Supervisor
Dan Theobald	Training Coordinator	Robert McMullen	Youth Counselor Supervisor
Jim Christensen	Maintenance Manager	8 Youth Security Supervisors (Officer of the Day)	
Mary Wright	Food Service Director	6 Youth Security Supervisors (Unit Manager)	
Richard Wetjen	Recreation Manager		

<u>Mailing Address</u>	Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center 2802 30 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Kearney NE 68845
<u>Phone Number</u>	(308)865-5313
<u>Fax Number</u>	(308)865-5323
<u>Website</u>	<a href="http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/jus/YRTC/YRTCKIndex.htm">http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/jus/YRTC/YRTCKIndex.htm</a>
<u>Rated Capacity</u>	172
<u>Average Length of Stay</u>	2011/12 – 154 DAYS; 5.1 MONTHS 2010/11 – 147 DAYS; 4.9 MONTHS
<u>Average Daily Population</u>	2011/12 – 160 YOUTH 2010/11 – 147 YOUTH
<u>Admissions</u>	2011/12 – 425 YOUTH 2010/11 – 449 YOUTH
<u>Youth Paroled to Hastings</u>	2011/12 – 53 YOUTH
<u>Juvenile Chemical Dependency Program</u>	2010/11 – 98 YOUTH
<u>Per Diem Costs</u>	2011/12 - \$181.96 2010/11 – \$192.99
<u>Average Age at Admission</u>	2011/12 – 16 YEARS 2010/11 – 16 YEARS
<u>Recidivism Rate</u>	2011/12 – 27% 2010/11 – 29%
<u>Affiliations and/or Accreditations</u>	
American Correctional Association	
Performance-based Standards/Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators	
Nebraska Department of Education	
AdvancED Accreditation	

## Highlights

The mission of the Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Kearney (YRTC-K) is to help youth live better lives through effective services, affording youth the opportunity to become law-abiding citizens. To accomplish this, the YRTC-K provides diverse programming that responds to each youth's unique needs. In support of our mission, YRTC-K recognizes the following accomplishments for FY 2011/2012:

The YRTC-K is mandated by agency operating rules to be an active participant in the American Correctional Association Commission on Accreditation (ACA). YRTC-K had a monitoring visit in March 2011 under the 3rd Edition ACA Standards.

YRTC-K is a member of the Performance Based Standards (PbS) Project sponsored by the Council for Juvenile Correctional Administrators. We are one of 179 facilities across 26 states in the project. Performance is scored on critical outcomes and the required aspects of the PbS reporting process for each data collection period and results in an assigned level of performance. The levels are from 1-4, with 4 being the highest possible level of attainment. YRTC-K is currently at level 2. This level assignment means YRTC-K has met the required PbS process and methodology.

YRTC-Kearney continued quality assurance measures through the Performance-based Standards project and the American Correctional Association audit process.

Staff continues to work hard to provide diverse programming and opportunities for the youth at the facility. The youth treatment program, EQUIP, was fully implemented this past year. The EQUIP program offers youth the tools that will assist with anger management, social decision making and social skills. The youth learn how to identify, own and replace (IOR) their negative thinking errors and behavior problems. This program is staff directed.

A welcome addition to the programming in the past year was the establishment of "Project Everlast" (formerly called Nebraska Foster Youth Council). This program's goal is to provide support and assist youth in making positive connections to help them transition to adulthood. The goal of the YRTC is to connect youth with a council in the community once they leave YRTC-Kearney that will provide additional support and transition services to the youth. Currently, we offer this program to any youth at the facility. The youth meet on a regular basis.

We teach youth to "Think of the Other Person" (TOP) and "Think of the Consequences" (TOC) for their behavior. The discipline model that is utilized is led by our direct care staff who work directly with the youth.



YRTC-K performed 5,200 community service hours for 38 local organizations.

YRTC-Kearney has incorporated the Fatherhood initiative. The class is called Today's Father. We offer youth a curriculum filled with education and hands-on learning techniques of how to care for a child. We also have a support group for the fathers who are at the YRTC-Kearney campus.

YRTC-Kearney has developed a Youth Council at the facility. One youth from every youth group participates and is involved with discussing and problem solving issues at the facility. The youth also suggest events that should occur at the facility.

Forty-nine (49) West Kearney High School (WKHS) students earned their General Equivalency Diplomas (GED) through the cooperative efforts with the GED testing center of Central Community College. Ten GED graduation ceremonies were held, with 122 family members attending.

There were 2,451 youth/parent/family/clergy visits, and 1,744 of these were for four hours or more off the YRTC-K campus.

Fifty-three (53) youth were paroled to the Hastings Juvenile Chemical Dependency Program (HJCD) for long-term chemical dependency treatment.

This fiscal year, YRTC-Kearney worked closely with DHHS leadership and received an additional seven positions. Through Unicameral legislation, the facility received 16 (see Support Services / Personnel for listing) new positions for a total of 23 positions. Included in the seven new positions were five youth security supervisors / unit managers and two youth security specialists II's. Unit managers are assigned to individual living units and spend a majority of their time in the living units monitoring security/control, programming and physical condition of the living unit. They also mentor and provide training for new YSS II direct care staff. They are responsible for responding to emergencies such as rule violations, medical issues, etc. With the addition of these unit managers assigned to the living units, we have seen a significant reduction in youth assaultive behavior due to more staff presence.





## Treatment Program

The YRTC-K rehabilitation and treatment program staff consists of the following:

- 15 Youth Counselor I's
- 3 Youth Counselor Supervisors
- 4 Mental Health Practitioners / LMHPs
- 1 Dickson Youth Security Supervisor
- 1 Clinical Psychologist

The Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) is completed on all YRTC-K youth as part of classification procedure to assess their risks and needs. The orientation staff continue to work hard to ease each new YRTC youth into the treatment program and provide leadership and counseling for first-time commitments.



In 2011/2012 YRTC-K had fully implemented the EQUIP program across campus. The philosophy of EQUIP is to motivate and equip youth to help each other to become productive citizens. During this process, youth attend Mutual Help meetings three times a week and attend EQUIP meetings two times a week. In EQUIP meetings the youth go through a series of exercises to help correct their way of thinking. Anger Management, Social Skills and Social Decision Making meetings help guide them to change their way of thinking and correct the errors that have gotten them in trouble.

Throughout the year, a total of 3,783 EQUIP and Mutual Help Meetings were led by the youth counselors (YC).

YC I's and YCSs made 4,238 contacts with parents by telephone, mail and face-to-face. They also made 5,949 contacts with juvenile service officers (JSO) and family permanency specialists (FPS).

During the FY 2011/2012, the Mental Health Department conducted mental health appraisals on 440 youth. All youth admitted to the facility are assessed for risk factors related to safety issues, trauma, and mental health concerns. Recommendations for treatment and appropriate referrals are made to ensure that individual youth needs are met.

The Chemical Dependency Programming staff provided an average of 7.0 weekly group therapy sessions to 77 youth. These sessions lasted 45-minutes and focused on allowing youth to begin processing their chemical dependency issues. These youth were identified as needing additional chemical dependency intervention while at YRTC-K. The weekly group therapy sessions prepare youth to transition to a more intensive and specific chemical dependency treatment at the community level of care, such as outpatient or inpatient services. All of the youth who participated in the chemical dependency therapy groups received referral recommendations for follow-up services on their return to the community.

The Hastings Juvenile Chemical Dependency (HJCD) program continues to provide intensive residential C/D services for youth approved via the Magellan process. The HJCD program

provides YRTC-K youth with a long-term residential level of care. The youth must meet the following guidelines to qualify for parole to HJCD: (1) Must be committed to the Office of Juvenile Services (OJS); (2) Must have a diagnosis of dependency as a primary diagnosis; (3) Must be above the age of 13; and (4) May have attempted previous treatment interventions.

Trauma Program Services are individualized to meet the specific needs of each identified youth. An in-depth interview with the youth, as well as a thorough review of the youth's history through research of available file information, provided nearly 750 hours of individual LMHP therapy to 85 youth during FY 20011/2012.

YRTC-K's contracted psychiatrist provides services for youth identified with mental health conditions that require assessment for treatment, intervention, and/or stabilization. The psychiatrist will complete an individual medical psychiatric consultation/evaluation for each identified youth. A total of 171 new youth received these psychiatric services, averaging 14 additional youth seen per month.



The Clinical Psychologist provides clinical supervision of the mental health staff and treatment programming. The Clinical Psychologist is available for consultation regarding individual youth, assessments and follow up with individually referred youth and crisis intervention. During the FY 2011/2012, 178 crisis and mental health department referrals were responded to for 147 different youth. In 18 of those situations Safety Precautions, an increased monitoring status to encourage increased observations for safety, were utilized. In four of those situations, youth required temporary transfers to Richard Young Hospital as the youths' needs exceeded the resources of the facility. The clinical psychologist is responsible for administrative supervision of the Mental Health Department, assists staff with Employee Assistance Program (EAP) referrals, chairs the EQUIP Programming Committee, and reviews and updates policies and procedures for supervised departments. The clinical psychologist provides supervision of the YRTC-K programming and assists with developing and conducting annual training on programming material. Annual training for mental health issues, trauma, and the Suicide Prevention Plan for at-risk youth are also reviewed, updated, and provided for all staff.

## *Education Program*

West Kearney High School (WKHS) is accredited by the Nebraska State Board of Education as a Special Purpose school. It is accredited as an optional school through the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. WKHS is also an institutional member of the Correctional Education Association.

The school's staff, 22 teachers and school principal, all hold professional certificates from the Nebraska Department of Education. This school year the staff authored 416 Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) and Education Plans (EP).

Forty-nine (49) students earned their General Equivalency Diplomas (GED) through a cooperative effort with Central Community College (CCC). There were 10 GED graduations. One hundred twenty-two (122) family members attended.



WKHS Basic Education teachers administered 301 Renaissance Learning's STAR pre-reading and math assessment. Three hundred and-one post-STAR reading and math assessments were also administered by the WKHS staff. These post-assessments were added to an on-going student database. The 301 student scores in the study indicate an 8.39 grade equivalency in math and an 8.10 grade equivalency in reading. The average length of stay for students in this post study is 5.32 months.

The WKHS Title I Neglected/Delinquent (N/D) project continued as a strong program component and served 188 students. These students demonstrated an average gain of 5.28 months in reading and 8.16 months in math. The students also earned an average of 5.00 high school credits toward their high school diplomas.

The speech and language program continued to be a vital part of the students' total education program. There were 60 students referred to the speech and language lab. There were 67 students receiving services in fiscal year 2011/2012.

Twenty-eight students were administered the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery).

During the year, a YRTC Vocational Rehabilitation Liaison position was continued within the Nebraska Department of Education to serve students from Douglas, Sarpy and Lancaster counties. This assists with providing a smoother transition back to the school systems.



## Medical Program

The YRTC-K medical personnel include one full-time RN and two full-time LPNs. Daily sick calls are held so youth can report any problems. Comprehensive health care services are provided from admission through discharge.

Medical personnel meet the DHHS Licensure Unit's requirements and are governed by written job descriptions approved by the contracted physician and YRTC Health Authority.

Access to health care is explained to all youth. All youth are screened on an individual basis. An intake screening form is used by orientation unit staff at the time of commitment. Information from this form alerts staff to any immediate problems. A nurse completes a comprehensive nursing assessment with each youth within seven days of arrival. A physical exam is done for each youth within 14 days, unless records show one was done within the prior 90 days. The contracted physician comes one day per week and, if treatment is needed between physician visits, arrangements are made and the youth is transported to his or her local office.

Youth medical information is requested through a questionnaire sent to each youth's parents/guardians. Youth immunizations are updated according to state law.

The YRTC-K training coordinator and medical personnel lead various medical training for staff. Special medical needs training is completed as needed with staff to meet special youth medical needs, i.e. diabetic. All direct care staff are trained as medication aides.

The contracted part-time dentist or a hygienist see each new youth within seven to 14 days and as needed.

During SFY 2011/2012, the following medical services were provided:

Medical Service Provided	Number	Dental Service Provided	Number
Brief physical exams by doctor	430	Dental Exams	885
Exams on new admittances	513	Dental Procedures Completed	3,172
Eye exams	183		
Surgeries	4		
Emergency Room	54		
Youth visits to nurse	5,409		
Staff seen by medical staff	92		



## *Religious Program*

The religious program at YRTC-K is supervised by a Chaplain. Church services are conducted every Sunday and a weekly Bible study on Thursday by the Chaplain.

A total of 1,893 youth attended the voluntary church services throughout the year. This is an average of 51 youth per Sunday.

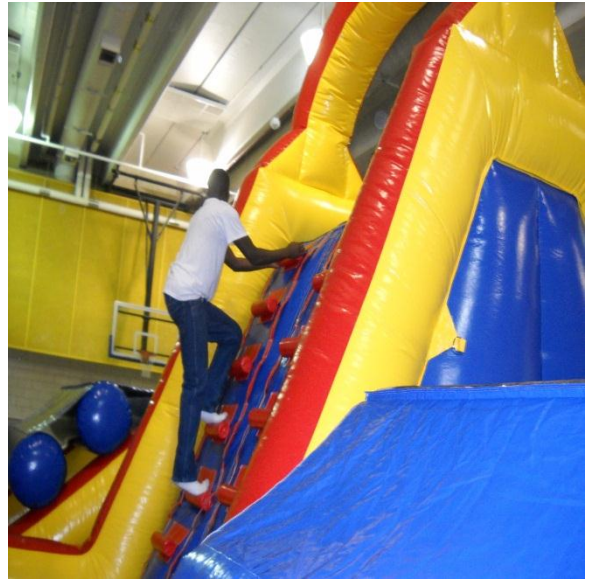
Bible study is available to the youth each week. Adult volunteers co-lead the evening Bible studies with the Chaplain. The total number of youth attending Bible study was 690. This is an average of 15 youth attending each study.

At the youth's request, the Chaplain is available for personal counseling. During the year, 163 youth requested and received personal spiritual counseling.

Volunteers from the Kearney area assist in the spiritual ministry. There are presently seven volunteers who participate on a regular basis and others who are available to assist on special occasions. There were 199.75 hours of volunteer time donated during the year.

Several special events and church services were held as follows:

- 10/7/11 Author of "Heaven is for Real," Todd Burpo.
- 10/21/11 Movie w/popcorn and drinks for Youth Council.
- 12/23/11 Holy Cross Lutheran Church dozen cookies for each youth.
- 12/24/11 Father Mike McDonald special Christmas Catholic Mass.
- 12/24/11 Comedy entertainment (Brian Regan DVD) in Chapel.
- 12/30/11 Field Day with inflatables.
- 2/17/12 Former Husker and Atlanta Falcon football player Ricky Simmons.
- 4/23/12 Author and National Speaker Jerry Traylor.



## *Recreation Program*

The YRTC-K employs one full-time recreation coordinator, two full-time recreation assistants, and one full-time and four part-time recreation aides.

YRTC-K has a wide variety of recreational equipment and areas that the youth have ready access to. This includes concrete play pads for each living unit. During the year, the youth participate in intramural sports. These include softball, football, volleyball, basketball, soccer and beach volleyball. The youth can swim in the YRTC-K pool during recreation time and during physical education classes.

In addition to regularly scheduled activities, the Recreation Department provided many special activities for the youth throughout the year, both on- and off-campus. These activities included:



- 34<sup>th</sup> Annual All-Star Basketball game in which two volunteers officiated the game. One volunteer officiated his twenty-first game on campus.
- There were nearly over 48,000 youth participation contacts in recreation this year.
- There was an average of 132 youth per day participating in recreation program activities including open recreation, intramural and physical education classes.
- Twelve youth achieved President's Fitness Awards.
- Six groups participated in the inaugural "Boot Camp" that began in August 2011. Each group endured eight, one-hour physical and mentally grueling sessions on and off the YRTC campus, including pre- and post-testing, hikes to a local park, tower climbing and spinning and kick boxing at the local YMCA.
- All youth participated in October's "Nohtaram" days, which was its third year. To earn a t-shirt, participants had to complete a Marathon (26.2 miles walking or running) during the month.
- Plans were put in place and materials are being gathered for the new obstacle course to be built on the north edge of campus. As it is built, youth will be able to test their physical and mental skills on this course one obstacle at a time.

## Community Service/Volunteer Program

The volunteer activities program at the YRTC-K is coordinated by the recreation coordinator.

The Community Advisory Board is made up of a cross section of community members who meet quarterly with administrative staff to review programs, physical plant, and policies and procedures.

The following are a few examples of the University of Nebraska – Kearney (UNK) partnership benefits, community service, volunteerism, entertainment and recreation within the community.



- Three YRTC-K youth groups attended UNK wrestling meets, football, basketball, and volleyball games as well as concerts held at the Health and Fitness Center. Groups cleaned up following two of the events.
- For the 17th year, YRTC-K groups have been involved in the set up and tear down of the UNK Blue-Gold Day at the beginning of the fall semester. Three YRTC-K groups participated in this celebration by working and then taking part in the food and activities offered.
- Three groups helped the local Habitat for Humanity lay sod and landscape for homes being built. This is an annual partnership.
- Six YRTC-K groups set up for concerts held at the Museum of Nebraska Art in downtown Kearney. This is the 6th year for Creighton Living Unit to complete this project.
- One YRTC-K group helped set up and tear down for the Prince of Peace Catholic Church's Fall Festival.
- YRTC-K helped the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department with their annual pancake feed. This is an annual partnership.
- Four truckloads of clothing bales were loaded by nine YRTC-K groups for the Salvation Army. This is the 18th year for this partnership. Six groups also helped with food baskets during the holidays.
- One group helped with the Kearney Community Thanksgiving dinner at the Knights of Columbus. This was the 14th year for Lincoln Living Unit to donate their assistance.
- Two YRTC-K groups helped with the Elks Hoop Shoot held in December. This was the 17th year YRTC-K helped with this event. One youth group helped with the Elks Soccer Shootout held in September. This was the 6th year for helping with this event.
- One group helped clean up the exhibition building at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds following the Kearney Goodfellows Holiday gift wrapping extravaganza on December 25th. This is the 16th year of YRTC's involvement.
- One YRTC group on four separate occasions participated in bowling activities with the developmentally disabled population.
- Six groups walked dogs at the local Humane Society.



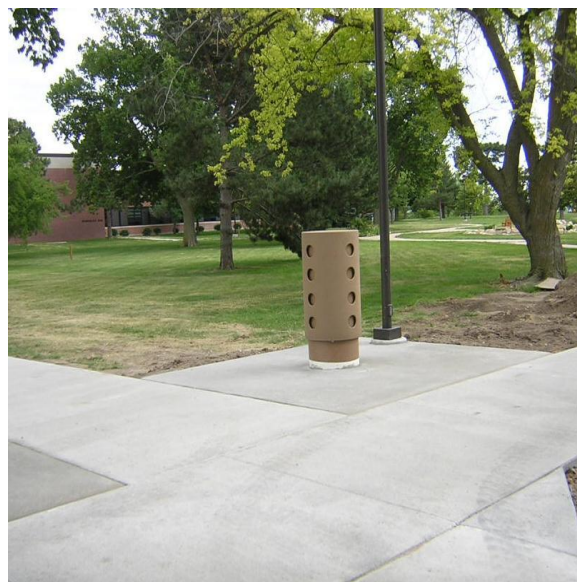
## Support Services

### Facility Budget

Business Office personnel, in conjunction with the Budget Unit of the Department of Health & Human Services, annually prepare the facility budget of funds appropriated by the State Legislature. A budget for each of the operations areas of the facility is included.

The following is the budget allocated to the facility by DHHS for the FY 2011/2012.

	Budget	Total Expenditures
General Funds	\$10,085,370	\$9,223,661
Federal Funds	\$415,961	\$403,414
Cash Funds	\$977,493	\$961,998
Grand Total	\$11,478,824	\$10,589,073



### Personnel

YRTC-Kearney currently has 154.1 FTEs authorized positions. During the 2012 legislative session an additional 16 positions were authorized for the facility. Recruitment began in the spring, with actual assignments, and increase in FTEs occurring after July 1, 2012 – next fiscal year.

LB968 authorized the positions below:

- Nine YSS II
- Five LMHP
- One Youth Security Supervisor
- One Nurse

During the past year, YRTC-K had 64 new hires, four retirements, 33 resignations and 17 promotions/transfers.

The average tenure for YRTC-Kearney employees was 10.25 years.

All employees are required to attend training throughout the year. During the past year, YRTC-Kearney employees completed 13,315.5 hours of training.

### Food Service

The Food Service Department served 188,144 meals consisting of 174,256 youth meals, 13,708 staff meals and 1,810 visitor meals. The average cost per meal was \$1.79 or \$5.37 per day. Rising fuel and food prices have increased per meal cost this year. Average price per meal during the previous fiscal year was \$1.67 per meal or \$5.01 per day. Thirty-four large decorated GED cakes were sent to the living units for their GED graduates. One hundred and eighty-one birthday cakes were made for the youth celebrating their birthday with their group. (A total of \$11,113.86) of USDA assistance



was used for an average assistance of \$.05 per meal. Youth were involved in 103 special activities involving the Food Service Department.

### **Maintenance**

During the SFY 2011/2012, the following projects were completed by facility maintenance staff and/or contractors:

- The final three tunnel vents were completed.
- Fire Sprinkler Project: Finished the installation of the fire sprinklers and updated fire alarm equipment in the administration building, school and gym. These buildings are now in compliance with life safety codes.
- Completed phase one of the concrete road project from Dodge to the Maintenance shop.
- Installed air conditioning in the drafting room and the art room office.
- Replaced the floor in the shop area of the boiler plant.
- Started the Washington part of the HVAC remodel.
- Completed the ACA files for the ACA audit.
- Installed new exterior doors in the maintenance shop and Dodge.

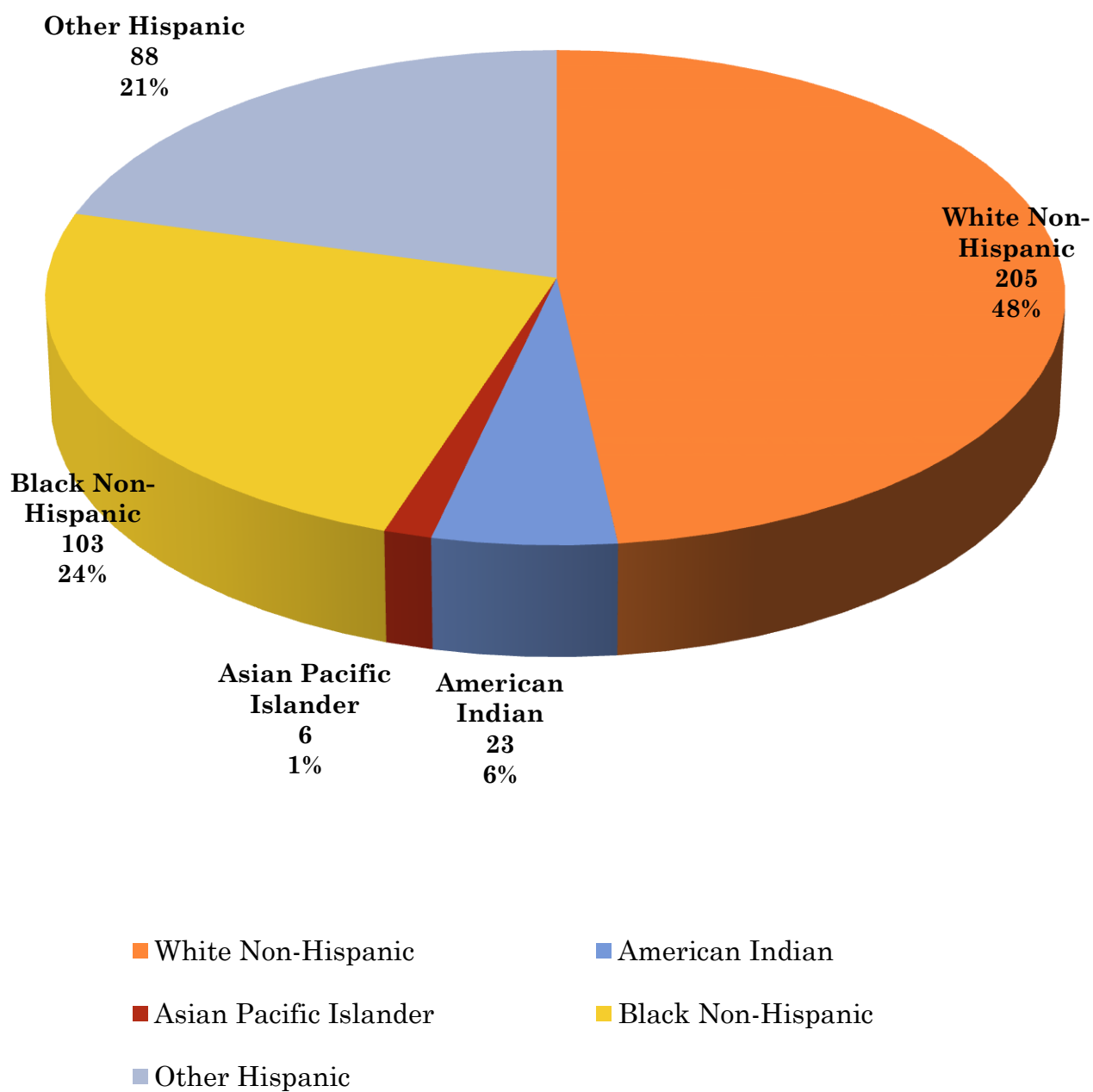
SFY 2011/2012  
Admittances by Service Area/County

Service Area/County	Admissions	Percentage
<b>Central Service Area</b>		
Adams	8	1.88%
Buffalo	9	2.12%
Custer	2	0.47%
Franklin	1	0.24%
Hall	29	6.82%
Hamilton	1	0.24%
Howard	3	0.70%
Kearney	1	0.24%
Merrick	1	0.24%
Phelps	4	0.94%
Sherman	2	0.47%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>14.36%</b>
<b>Eastern Service Area</b>		
Douglas	97	22.82%
Sarpy	8	1.88%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>24.70%</b>
<b>Northern Service Area</b>		
Cedar	1	0.24%
Colfax	1	0.24%
Cuming	3	0.70%
Dakota	16	3.76%
Dixon	2	0.47%
Dodge	14	3.29%
Holt	2	0.47%
Knox	3	0.70%
Madison	16	3.76%
Pierce	1	0.24%
Platte	7	1.65%
Thurston	2	0.47%
Washington	4	0.94%
Wayne	1	0.24%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>17.17%</b>
<b>Southeastern Service Area</b>		
Butler	2	0.47%
Cass	1	0.24%
Gage	8	1.88%
Jefferson	2	0.47%
Lancaster	98	23.05%
Otoe	1	0.24%
Polk	1	0.24%
Richardson	3	0.70%
Saline	7	1.65%
Saunders	5	1.17%
Seward	4	0.94%
York	1	0.24%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>31.29%</b>
<b>Western Service Area</b>		
Box Butte	4	0.94%
Chase	1	0.24%
Cheyenne	1	0.24%
Dawes	1	0.24%
Dawson	7	1.65%
Furnas	2	0.47%
Keith	3	0.70%
Lincoln	12	2.82%
Morrill	1	0.24%
Red Willow	1	0.24%
Scotts Bluff	17	4.00%
Sheridan	3	0.70%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>12.48%</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## *SFY 2011/2012 Admissions by Offense*

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Total</b>
Aiding & Abetting	1
Arson	2
Assault	88
Auto Theft	13
Burglary	44
Concealed Weapon	11
Criminal Mischief	43
Disorderly Conduct	4
Distribution of Drugs	2
Disturbing the Peace	10
Escape	4
False Imprisonment	1
False Information	4
Obstructing a Police Officer	9
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	28
Possession of Drugs	45
Possession of Firearm	2
Probation Violation	1
Resisting Arrest	1
Robbery	11
Sexual Assault	7
Shoplifting	2
Terroristic Threats	4
Theft	76
Trespass	8
Vandalism	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>425</b>

## SFY 2011/2012 Admissions by Race (425 Admissions)



# SFY 2011/2012 Releases (474 Releases)

